

E. Birk
com

Wokingham Municipal Borough
and
Wokingham Rural District
Joint Public Health Committee

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1966

Wokingham Municipal Borough
and
Wokingham Rural District
Joint Public Health Committee

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1966

WOKINGHAM MUNICIPAL BOROUGH
and
WOKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

List of Members:

Wokingham Municipal Borough	...	Ald. F. Moles (Chairman) Cr. E. E. Bland
Wokingham Rural District	... ..	Mr. D. H. Oliphant (Vice-Chairman) Mrs. N. O. Adlam Mrs. P. Smallcombe Mrs. N. C. L. Robinson Mr. R. G. Smith
Berkshire County Council	... ..	Cr. Dr. R. Child Mr. S. S. Gates
Clerk of the Committee	... ..	Mr. C. W. H. Garrett (Honorary)
Treasurer of the Committee	... ..	Mr. E. C. Clarkson (Honorary)

WOKINGHAM MUNICIPAL BOROUGH
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

List of Members:

Ald. F. Moles (Chairman) Cr. E. E. Bland (Vice-Chairman) The Mayor, Cr. W. C. A. Smith	
Ald. R. H. Brimblecombe	Cr. Mrs. P. E. Heath
Ald. N. C. Lawrence	Cr. W. G. Rogers
Ald. W. J. Willey	Cr. J. W. Tattersall
Cr. Dr. R. Child	Cr. E. J. West
Cr. H. S. Corlett	

WOKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

List of Members:

Mrs. N. O. Adlam (Chairman) Mrs. N. C. L. Robinson, J.P. (Vice-Chairman) Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council (ex-officio) Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (ex-officio) Lt. Col. C. D. Burnell, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D., D.L.	
Mr. T. D. Carpenter	Mr. D. V. Parker
Mr. E. M. Darbourn	The Hon. Mrs. E. A. Samuel
Mr. S. S. Gates	Mr. E. S. Scott, J.P.
Mrs. D. M. Iles	Mrs. P. Smallcombe
Mr. J. A. Keen	Mr. R. G. Smith
Mr. D. H. Oliphant	Mr. W. D. Tracey
Major M. P. Oliver	Mr. R. M. Walker

**WOKINGHAM MUNICIPAL BOROUGH
and
WOKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT**

Staff:

Medical Officer of Health:

I. W. MACKICHAN, O.B.E., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S.
L.R.C.P., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.

Secretary to Medical Officer of Health: Mrs J. Wadmore

WOKINGHAM MUNICIPAL BOROUGH

Chief Public Health Inspector:	J. B. Bowden	Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector.
		Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
Public Health Inspector:	P. E. Parbery	Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector.
		Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
		R.S.H. Diploma for Smoke Inspection.
Clerical Assistant:	Miss C. Marshall	
Rodent Operator and Technical Assistant:	H. Scurlock	

WOKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT

Chief Public Health Inspector:	D. Evans	Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector.
		Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
Senior Additional Public Health Inspector:	M. Cottrell	Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector.
		Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
Additional Public Health Inspectors:	E. Huntington	Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector.
	D. T. Lewis	Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector.
	D. P. Seal	Certificate of the Public Health Inspectors Examination Board as Public Health Inspector. Diploma for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.
Chief Clerk:	Mrs. M. Emmett	
Clerical Assistants:	Miss L. Brandon Miss J. Smith	
Rodent Control Officer:	J. Martin	
Rodent Operators:	A. Tockock A. J. B. Wicks	

Wokingham Borough

**REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE WOKINGHAM BOROUGH AND
WOKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT JOINT
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1966. On the whole, the health record for both the Borough and Rural District was good, and the Registrar General's returns for the year show that the infant mortality and death rates in the Wokingham district are both well below the national average, while the birth rate still remains higher than that of the country as a whole.

VITAL STATISTICS

Once more the upward trend in population figures continues, and the total for the whole area is now 85,120. The Borough rose by 1,140 to a population of 17,020 and the Rural District by 3,010 to 68,100. This shows a total increase for the area of 4,150 persons; of these, the natural increase was 1,079 and the remainder represents newcomers taking up residence in the Borough and Rural District.

The birth rate for England and Wales declined in 1966 to 17.7 births per thousand population. The local figure, however, while not quite so high as last year, is still well above the average, being 21.4. This probably indicates the predominance of young married couples in the community rather than a more than average fertility.

The infant mortality rate for 1966 was 18.1. This compares favourably with 19.0 for England and Wales and reflects the high quality of the maternity services provided. It is also interesting to note that almost three-quarters of the babies were born in hospital rather than at home. The perinatal death rate, after a rapid fall in the past few years, has now levelled out at about the national average, being 26.7 compared with 26.3 for England and Wales. The percentage of illegitimate births remains constant at about 4% of all live births. The still birth rate remains low and compares favourably with the rest of the country.

The number of deaths for 1966 came to 744, an increase on the 1965 figure of 660. The crude death rate of 8.7 for the area, however, is still well below the national figure of 11.7. The principal causes of death were much the same as in previous years, namely cancer, vascular disease of the nervous system, coronary heart disease and terminal pneumonia — all diseases of the older section of the community.

Deaths from cancer came to 160, which is 31 more than in 1965, and of those, 38 were due to lung cancer. This is a slight increase on the previous year's figure of 31, and it is of interest to note that 22

came from the Rural District while the Borough, with only a quarter of the population, had 16 cases. Road accidents accounted for 16 deaths, compared with 13 in 1965.

In connection with the above, an extract from the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Wokingham for the year 1896 is of interest. The population at that time was 3,300, and in that year 50 deaths occurred of residents in the Borough. Tuberculosis caused 7 deaths, "cancerous" diseases 4 deaths, while the only death from injuries was caused by the suicide of a woman aged 60. Of the remaining 30 deaths no details are given, except that one child died from diphtheria and an infant aged 7 months died of diarrhoea.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The incidence of most communicable diseases remains at the same low level as in the past few years. The principal ones notified were measles, dysentery and scarlet fever. Cases of measles were considerably less than in the year before, while scarlet fever is still falling in numbers. Of the 184 cases of dysentery notified or ascertained during the year, 85 occurred in an outbreak at a local school during the months of February and March.

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the register showed a small decline, indicating that the disease is slowly but surely being eradicated. No deaths were reported from this illness, while only a few years back, when the population was considerably smaller, several were reported every year. The steady decline in the incidence of the disease is shown in the following table, covering the Borough and Rural District combined for the past sixteen years. It shows that while the population has increased from 43,000 to 85,000, the number of new cases and deaths has shown a steady decline.

	1950	1955	1960	1966
Approximate population ...	43,000	51,000	61,000	85,000
New cases:				
Pulmonary	39	25	13	20
Non-pulmonary ...	8	6	3	2
Deaths	9	5	4	2

Eight cases of food poisoning were reported, all from the Rural District. These were scattered infections and in several instances the illness was thought to have been contracted abroad.

A close watch was kept for cases of smallpox in view of the occurrence of the disease elsewhere in the country. Several suspicious cases were seen, but all proved to be due to other infections.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Arrangements for the above are reasonably adequate, although the exceptionally rapid growth of the Borough and Rural District has placed a severe strain on existing installations. Both Authorities have an extensive programme of new works in hand, including the modernisation and extension of the Borough Works at Ashridge where an up-to-date plant for the heat treatment of sludge for disposal in "cake" form has been built. The extension of sewers during 1966, particularly in the Swallowfield, Finchampstead, Barkham and Wokingham Without parishes, has resulted in a considerable number of properties being provided with main drainage.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY

Towards the end of the year a Cervical Cytology Clinic was opened by the County Council at Wokingham Hospital, by arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board in the absence of suitable Local Authority premises in the town. Publicity was kept to a minimum to avoid overstressing the new service, but in spite of this a flood of enquiries was received and in a very short time bookings had been taken for more than a year ahead. This position will be eased by the transfer of Bracknell residents to their own unit early in 1967. Understandably, most of the patients come from the Registrar General Classes I and II, but a considerable number of persons from Classes III and IV have also made appointments.

HEALTH AND WELFARE FACILITIES

A move to concentrate the various Local Authority Clinics scattered about Wokingham Borough was started during the year by moving the School Eye Clinic and Child Welfare Clinic into accommodation at Wokingham Hospital, rented from the Regional Hospital Board. It had been hoped that a new Clinic Building in Wokingham would have been started in the coming year, but unfortunately this has now had to be postponed indefinitely. One of the most unfortunate results of this is the lack of facilities for health education, which has of necessity been curtailed, while liaison between the various Local Authority Health Services still remains difficult. It is hoped that a building able to serve the growing population of Wokingham and its surrounding parishes and promote better co-ordination of all services will not long be delayed.

CANCER OF THE LUNG

In view of the continuing concern about lung cancer and its connection with smoking, it is of interest to review the numbers of cases which have occurred in the past 16 years. During this period the population concerned has doubled, and the figures as shown below must be considered in this context. From these it will be seen that the number of cases from the Borough remains very much the same, apart

from a sharp rise in the past year, while those from the Rural District have shown a steady increase with some fluctuation. The best that can be said is that the increase in the past few years has not been alarming compared with the national figures, but nevertheless, the fact cannot be disregarded that many of the deaths, particularly those among the lower age groups, might have been prevented by the avoidance of cigarette smoking.

				Borough	Rural District	Total
1950	...	...	...	10	6	16
1955	...	...	...	5	16	21
1960	...	...	...	4	6	10
1961	...	...	...	6	17	23
1962	...	...	...	2	21	23
1963	...	...	...	3	11	14
1964	...	...	...	6	31	37
1965	...	...	...	6	29	35
1966	...	...	...	16	22	38

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME

In Wokingham Borough there is already an active Accident Prevention Committee which deals with matters concerning safety in the home. It has been felt for some time that a similar Committee should be set up for the Rural District, and a meeting was called during the year to see if there was sufficient support for this venture. This meeting was well attended and it was decided to form a Home Safety Committee for Wokingham Rural District, with a small executive sub-committee, with the object of promoting safety in the home by means of talks, posters, displays and similar propaganda methods.

CARE OF THE AGED

A welcome result of the attachment of Health Visitors to General Practices in the area is the greater attention to aged persons, particularly those living alone. The problems of these old people have sometimes in the past been overlooked, but the extra emphasis in the Health Visitors' duties on visiting such persons is now showing results. One gap, however, that badly needs filling, is the extension of the "Meals on Wheels" service to some parts of the District and Borough where they are not already provided by the W.R.V.S. There are many instances where such meals have undoubtedly saved the lives of their recipients and it is to be hoped that soon the problem of ensuring an adequate diet for aged persons living alone will be overcome.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

Investigations were carried out during the year following a complaint concerning the emission of fumes from a large galvanising plant. It appeared that these arose from certain chemical processes within the works, although there was no nuisance from fumes within the premises,

Wokingham Borough

due to adequate ventilation. The assistance of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was sought and the Alkali Inspector concerned visited the works on two or three occasions. He put forward certain recommendations, advising the construction of new chimneys to carry off the fumes at a higher level, and also the installation of an arrester to prevent the escape of certain chemicals into the atmosphere. It is expected that no further nuisance will arise from this source following these modifications.

I wish to express my appreciation of the support given by the Chairmen and Members of both Public Health Committees to myself and my colleagues. I would also like to thank the Chief Public Health Inspectors of the Borough and Rural District and all members of the staff, including my secretary, for their co-operation and assistance. Lastly, I would like to mention the retirement of Mr. John Carr, Rodent Control Officer, after 18 years of valuable services to the Wokingham Borough and Rural District Councils.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

I. W. MacKICHAN

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Shute End,
Wokingham,
Berkshire.

Wokingham Borough

STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,403
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book at 31st March, 1967	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,355
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1967	...	...	...	...	...	...	£937,785
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£3,700
Population (estimated) mid-year	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,020

LIVE BIRTHS:

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	174	148	322
Illegitimate	10	11	21
Total	184	159	343

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population):

Actual	...	...	...	...	20.2
Corrected	...	...	...	...	20.4

Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births	...	6.1
---	-----	-----

STILL BIRTHS:

	M	F	Total	
Number of Still Births ...	2	2	4	
Total Live and Still Births ...	...	...	...	347
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births)			...	11.5

INFANT DEATHS (Under 1 year):

				M	F	Total	
Legitimate	...	...	...	3	5	8	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	1	1	
Total	...	...	...	3	6	9	
Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 live births)							
Legitimate		...	...	...	...	...	24.8
Illegitimate		...	...	...	...	...	47.6
Combined		...	...	...	...	...	26.2
Neo-natal Death Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)							
	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.7
Early Neo-natal Death Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)							
	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.7
Perinatal Death Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births)							
					...	...	23.1

MATERNAL DEATHS:

Number of Maternal Deaths	...	...	...	...	1
Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 live and still births)	...	...	...	...	2.9

DEATHS (All causes):

				M	F	Total		
Number of Deaths				87	125	212		
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)								
Actual ... ..				...	...	...	...	12.5
Corrected ... ..				...	...	...	...	10.6

Wokingham Borough
NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	1966	1965	1964
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	56	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	3	1
Malaria	—	—	—
Measles	284	468	96
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
(a) Paralytic	—	—	—
(b) Non-paralytic	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	6
Scarlet Fever	15	8	10
Smallpox	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	3	—	18

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—
2 - 4 years	—	—	—	—
5 - 9 „	—	—	—	—
10 - 14 „	—	—	—	—
15 - 19 „	—	—	—	—
20 - 24 „	—	—	—	—
25 - 34 „	—	1	—	—
35 - 44 „	2	—	—	—
45 - 54 „	—	—	—	—
55 - 64 „	—	—	—	—
65 - 74 „	1	1	—	—
75 and over	—	—	—	—
Total (All Ages)	3	2	—	—

Wokingham Borough

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The number of children who were immunised against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus during the year is as follows:—

DIPHThERIA/TETANUS:

Primary Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Re-inforcing Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	248

DIPHThERIA/WHOOPING COUGH/TETANUS:

Primary Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	306
Re-inforcing Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	249

The number of children and adults who were vaccinated against Smallpox and immunised against Poliomyelitis is as follows:—

SMALLPOX:

Primary Vaccinations	...	...	...	...	...	...	213
Re-vaccinations	...	...	...	...	...	...	120

POLIOMYELITIS:

Primary Immunisations:—							
3 Oral Doses	...	...	...	...	...	...	529
Re-inforcing Immunisations:—							
4th Oral Doses	...	...	...	...	...	...	86

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WOKINGHAM BOROUGH, 1966

Causes of Death	Total All Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 Year	Age in Years								Total All Causes
				Wokingham Borough									
				1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-			75 & over
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	...	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	...	...
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	...	...
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	...	...
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	16	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	6	5	...	...
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	...	...
Diabetes ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	...	...
Vascular lesions of nervous system	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	40	...	...
Coronary disease, angina ...	29	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	10	16	...	...
Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	...	...
Other heart disease ...	23	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	19	...	...
Other circulatory disease	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	...	...
Pneumonia ...	15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	...	...
Bronchitis ...	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	...	...
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	...	...
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	...	...
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	...	...
Congenital malformations	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	...	...
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	4	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	8	...	...
Motor vehicle accidents	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	...	...
All other accidents	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	...	...
Total All Causes ...	212	4	5	1	2	5	6	20	45	123	...	...

Wokingham Borough

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SURVEYOR**SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

The modernisation of the Ashridge Water Reclamation Plant has proceeded throughout the year and Phase I is now in operation and is producing a most satisfactory effluent. Phase II is in progress and will be completed during 1967 and will be capable of dealing with a population of 25,000. The Heat Treatment Plant for sludge is proving to be of great interest amongst engineers nationally and internationally and in spite of inaugural "teething" troubles is most successful.

Proposals are in hand for the enlargement of sections of the foul and surface water sewers made necessary by the increased population.

HIGHWAYS

A number of minor road improvements have taken place to aid movements of traffic and a "one-way" traffic system for the Town Centre roads was approved. Private Street works on unmade roads are in hand. The Council has also approved a main distributor road around the town; this is now awaiting Ministerial Approval.

STREET LIGHTING

The system continues to expand by the inclusion of lights provided on new estate roads and an improved type of lantern is being introduced for main road lighting.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of house refuse is working satisfactorily; a weekly collection is made from all domestic property, with special collections from shops and industrial buildings. A new dustless loading vehicle was provided during the year. Refuse is being disposed of by controlled tipping at the disposal works at Billingbear. The Council has also considered the possible use of pulverisation plants to conserve space at the disposal works.

SWIMMING POOL

The modernisation works carried out in 1965 have been much appreciated by pool users; the quality of the water in the pool was of a high standard throughout the season. Improvements to the children's pool are in hand.

TOWN PLANNING

Development within the Borough continued apace throughout the year and a considerable increase in population took place. Most of the "designated" land is now in course of development and approaches are being made to the County Planning Department for further land to be released.

HOUSING

The Council has continued building throughout the year on three sites, a total of 58 houses. With the completion of these schemes the Council has little or no land left for future building and the appropriate committee is actively considering its future policy, particularly in view of the small waiting list. The Council is a member of the South Bucks/East Berks. Consortium dealing with the use of Industrialised houses, and members visited various systems during the year. A decision has yet to be reached on the use of such houses in the Borough.

In conclusion, 1966 has again been a very busy and expansive year, and Wokingham continues to be well favoured in the general expansion of the South East.

E. F. PRESSEY.

REPORT OF THE HOUSING MANAGER

The redevelopment of the old site of 40 prefabs in Patten Ash Drive was completed during the year, the remaining 58 dwellings being handed over to bring the total to 77. This is mixed development of old persons bungalows, houses, flats, maisonettes and 56 lock-up garages and it brought the total number of properties under management to 944 (884 post-war, 52 pre-war and 8 miscellaneous).

Work commenced on two new housing contracts. The first, in Barkham Road, will consist of 53 dwellings and 48 lock-up garages. The same contractor is redeveloping the second site, in Emmbrook Road, where four pre-war houses were demolished and 11 dwellings and 11 lock-up garages are in course of erection.

The improvement and modernisation of the pre-war dwellings continued. So far 34 properties have been completed and work will commence on 14 next year.

During the year, 1,848 orders were issued for repairs to Council dwellings and in accordance with the Council's policy to bring all the electrical installations on their estates up to present day standard, another estate (Barrett Crescent), was rewired.

A total of 165 lettings were arranged as follows:—

Applicants rehoused off waiting list	85
Internal transfer, to make best use of accommodation ...	70
Slum Clearance (including Peach Street overhangs) ...	7
Exchanges (all from outside the Borough)	3

and

during the year 34 tenants gave up their accommodation.

Towards the end of the year it was decided that the last prefabs under the control of the Council, six in Cross Street/Peach Street, should be emptied as soon as alternative accommodation could be arranged for the existing tenants.

P. HEDGES.

Wokingham Borough

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Redevelopment of the town centre has added considerably to the work of the Department during the year, mainly due to uncertainty and indecision. It was, for instance, difficult to enforce some of the regulations made under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act in premises likely to be demolished during the current or following year and a variety of queries and problems arose from old and to be disused drains and sewers. There was an increased number of applications for improvement grants notwithstanding the credit squeeze and a marked increase in the amount of foodstuffs surrendered as unfit for consumption. It was also thought necessary to increase the number of samples of foodstuffs submitted for bacteriological examination particularly cream and cooked meats. The results of these samples varied considerably and at times posed the questions “at what stage does contamination occur” and “if at this stage contamination is not controllable directly by our efforts how best can we minimise the effect by regard to the environment of the commodity”. Surprisingly few complaints were received regarding either cream or cooked meats.

The majority of all complaints received during the year concerned neighbourly disagreements.

Progress in other aspects of environmental health could best be described as steady.

WATER SUPPLY

The mains water supply of the area is provided by the Mid-Wessex Water Company and has remained most satisfactory during the year.

The number of samples taken for bacteriological examination is as follows:—

Number of water samples taken from mains supply	...	...	9
Number of samples from Martins Swimming Pool	...	...	15
Number of samples from Private Swimming Pools	...	...	1
Number of water samples taken from wells	...	...	—

The number of premises still supplied by shallow wells is four and samples were taken from time to time to determine the purity of the water. Only in one case was any pollution found and the premises concerned were subsequently connected to the Water Company’s main.

Wokingham Borough
RAINFALL

Month		Depth in Inches	Greatest Fall in 24 hours Depth in ins.	Date	No. of days with .01in. or more	No. of days with .04in. or more
January	...	1.15	.30	30th	10	7
February	...	3.29	.63	9th	17	15
March	...	.69	.23	3rd	8	5
April	...	3.47	.47	{ 18th 19th	20	18
May	...	2.32	.46	11th	11	9
June	...	2.71	1.28	22nd	14	9
July	...	3.37	1.30	5th	15	14
August	...	3.30	.74	29th	9	9
September	...	1.55	.43	30th	8	7
October	...	4.22	.70	22nd	17	15
November	...	1.68	.48	5th	13	10
December	...	2.51	.40	1st	18	15
		<hr/> 30.26 <hr/>			<hr/> 160 <hr/>	<hr/> 133 <hr/>

Average of 66 years
25.42 inches.
167.22 days with .01 inches or more.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE

Number of samples of trade effluent taken	...	...	...	3
Number of visits made in connection with trade effluents			...	12
Number of samples of sewage effluent taken	...	...	...	4
Number of visits made following complaints arising from unsatis- factory mains sewers	...	...	...	108

There was no change in the types of trade effluent being discharged into the sewers and these, mainly associated with light metal industries, gave no trouble either in the sewers or in the disposal works. In spite of the reconstruction work continuing during the year at the disposal works the effluent discharged from it was of an acceptable standard.

The following table gives two typical results of samples analysed.

Wokingham Borough

					Parts per million	Parts per million
Ammoniacal nitrogen	...	...	...	...	8.3	8.5
Albuminoid nitrogen	...	...	...	...	1.6	1.6
Nitrogen from nitrites	...	...	...	...	0.14	0.15
Nitrogen from nitrates	...	...	...	...	26.5	28.0
Permanganate value (3 minutes)	...	...	...	...	3.2	3.0
Permanganate value (4 hours)	...	...	...	...	11.4	12.2
Biochemical oxygen demand (5 days at 20 degrees C.)	...	...	...	...	16.0	18.0
Total solids	...	...	...	...	667	582
Solids in suspension	...	...	...	...	12	21
Total volatile on ignition	...	...	...	...	4	4
Combined chlorine	...	...	...	...	111	101
Reaction (pH values)	...	...	...	...	7.2	7.4

The number of properties remaining on septic tank and cesspool systems remains the same as last year but the Council did, during the year, agree to carry out a scheme to reduce the number by 24, a little over one third of the total.

Also during the year the Council accepted a scheme to duplicate two existing sewers, one serving the Norreys Barn area and the other virtually the whole of the southern half of the town. Both the existing sewers were subject to surcharge and giving rise to complaints of overflowing drains.

SANITARY CONDITIONS

Number of informal notices served during the year:—

Nuisances—Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	13
Drainage—Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	—
Repairs—Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	—

Number of informal notices complied with during the year	...	13
Number of formal notices served during the year	...	4
Number of formal drainage notices served during the year	...	1
Number of formal drainage notices complied with during the year	...	—
Work done by local authority to sewers under Section 24 Public Health Act	...	12
Work done by local authority in default	...	—

HOUSING

Applications received for improvement grants	...	...	...	30
Applications received for conversion grants	...	...	...	—
Applications received for standard grants	...	...	...	2
Applications approved, improvement or conversion	...	...	...	29
Applications approved, standard	...	...	...	2
Applications refused	...	...	...	1

Wokingham Borough

Total number of visits made in respect of applications, completions or enquiries regarding grants	60
Total number of housing units included in applications approved	32
Total sum involved in grants approved during the year	£8808

During the year the Borough Council continued to follow their policy in promoting the improvement of houses. In most cases, applications for grants were made in respect of houses built between 1890 and 1910 and again in most cases the work consisted of the addition of a single storied bathroom and vestibule, the latter incorporating a larder, at the rear.

During the year seven closing orders were made. Eight families were rehoused from houses subject to closing orders. At the end of the year four houses subject to closing orders remained occupied. Ten houses subject to closing orders were vacant at the end of the year.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

There are no problems associated with this type of accommodation within the Borough, fortunately the types of premises in the area as a whole do not lend themselves to multiple occupation.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The number of moveable dwellings in the Borough area during the year was 30, 19 of which were covered by planning consent and were provided with satisfactory amenities. Three claimed exemption, six were stationed on the Council's sewage disposal works in connection with the reconstruction works and the remainder were the subject of action to effect their removal from sites. There were no cases of itinerant caravans requiring removal from various parts of the district as was the case in the previous year and no complaints were received regarding the hygiene of moveable dwellings of any type.

FOOD INSPECTION

The 14 complaints received during the year relating to unsatisfactory food purchased was a reduction on the previous year and one would hope that this was due to the investigations, advice given and insistence on action by suppliers which took a considerable amount of time during the previous year. There was no recourse to legal action but many warnings were given. The human element would seem to be at the root of all the complaints which concerned foods either old, badly kept or spoiled by foreign bodies. In no case was it found that there was any deliberate attempt to sell an unsound article of food.

Wokingham Borough

Request visits to examine doubtful foodstuffs resulted in certificates of surrender being issued in respect of the following foodstuffs disposed of deep in the Council's refuse tip. The increase in certificates issued was from 39 in 1965 to 262 in 1966.

Number of certificates issued	...	...	...	...	...	262
Number of request visits	...	...	...	...	...	28
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	7lbs. 8oz.
Fish	.....	...	...	...	...	7 stone
Tinned meat	...	...	...	...	...	41 tins
Tinned fish	...	...	...	...	...	6 tins
Tinned fruit	...	...	...	...	...	1213 tins
Tinned vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	139 tins
Tinned milk	...	...	...	...	...	3 tins
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	71 jars, 4 pkts.

FOOD PREMISES

Number of Food Premises by type of business at the end of the year:—

General Grocers and Provision Dealers including Multiples and Self Service	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butcher's Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Licensed Premises, Clubs, Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Off Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

The number by type of business is becoming increasingly difficult to identify, due to the modern trend of shops to trade in a multiplicity of goods.

The following table shows the details for which it was necessary to serve notices during the year:—

Condition of equipment	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Supply of hot water	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Soap and towels	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Misuse and provision of wash hand basins	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Decoration	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Structural defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Dustbins and condition of yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Contamination of food	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Wokingham Borough

No complaints were received on the standards of hygiene in food premises and those unsatisfactory conditions were found on routine inspections. Thus this emphasises the need to make frequent visits to all food premises.

On the whole the tradespeople are conscious of the need to maintain good standards and quickly respond to advice and notice of contraventions under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

MILK AND DAIRIES

The following table gives details of samples of milk sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory:—

	Number of Samples	Number Satisfactory
Methylene Blue	57	54
Phosphatase Test	54	54
Turbidity	9	9

Forty-six samples of cream and sixteen samples of cakes containing cream were submitted for examination, all of which were found to be satisfactory.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLING

During the year 19 samples of foodstuffs, either wholly or partially cooked meat, were taken and in the main the results obtained were satisfactory. The taking of these samples and the supplying of the retailers with the results followed up with discussion and advice, proved useful to the retailers and whilst it is difficult to assess the results, sampling was thought necessary in view of the increased amount of this type of foodstuff sold in the Borough and the greater reliance placed on it by working housewives.

SHOPS ACT 1950

Two complaints were received during the year concerning illegal Sunday trading. These were dealt with informally and it is hoped have resolved themselves.

THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER 1957

Number of persons holding licences:—

The Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order 1957 ...	6
The Diseases of Animals (Licensing of Waste Food Sterilization Plant) Order 1954	1
Number of licences amended or revoked	—
Number of inspections carried out under 1957 Order ...	15
Number of infringements found	3

Wokingham Borough

One plant only was used continually during the year and two smaller plants only occasionally. The three infringements found were the misuse of waste container covers and these were quickly dealt with.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

One hundred and fourteen visits were paid in connection with infectious diseases mainly arising from dysentery cases and mainly with the purpose of enquiring into hygienic practices.

DISINFESTATIONS AND DISINFECTIONS

Twelve visits were made to verminous houses and disinfestation work carried out at six premises.

RODENT CONTROL

The Rodent Officer continued to carry out the work to domestic and business premises either as routine or on request.

The work carried out by the operator:—

Number of complaints received, rats and mice	...	...	...	385
Number of premises surveyed	...	...	...	854
Number of premises found infested, rats	...	...	...	319
Number of premises found infested, mice	...	...	...	27
Number of premises treated, rats	...	...	...	327
Number of premises treated, mice	...	...	...	23
Number of business properties treated	...	...	...	12
Number of dwellings treated	...	...	...	340

Rodent control work was carried out incidental to other activities of the department.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no offensive establishments within the Borough.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Work during 1966 under this Act and Regulations was in the main follow-up work of the previous year. Many of the premises subject of notices were demolished and new developments commenced to take their place. Time was spent studying plans of the proposed new shops to ensure as far as is practical from plans that the new premises met the requirements.

No complaints were received during the year from employees in either shops or offices concerning structural conditions. Complaints were received in the case of two premises concerning the temperature but in both cases the faulty heating appliances were repaired without delay.

TABLE A. REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises (1)	Number of Premises Regis- tered During the Year (2)	Total Number of Registered Premises at end of Year (3)	Number of Registered Premises Receiving a General Inspection During the Year (4)
Offices	6	61	23
Retail shops	8	107	47
Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	4	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	8	-
Fuel storage depots ...	-	1	-
TOTALS	15	181	71

TABLE B. NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES

369

TABLE C. ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace (1)	Number of Persons Employed (2)
Offices	364
Retail shops	523
Wholesale departments, warehouses	89
Catering establishments open to the public	91
Canteens	6
Fuel storage depots	3
TOTAL	1076
Total Males	456
Total Females	620
Number of formal notices served	60
Number of infringements found on inspection	197
Informal notices in connection with inspections	13

Wokingham Borough

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are no licensed premises in the Borough.

KNACKERS' YARD

This yard has carried out its business in a proper way throughout the year and there have been no complaints regarding the activity.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

The Council owned pool operated during the summer. Fifteen samples were taken from Martin's Swimming Pool all of which gave a satisfactory result.

One sample taken from a private pool gave a satisfactory result and the pool itself gave no cause for complaint.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

During the year the condition of the water in the principal stream in the area improved considerably and quantities of builders' material and other debris were removed from it. The principal ditches in the town are rapidly becoming surcharged in times of heavy rain and the Council agreed during the year to prepare a phased scheme for the surface water drainage of the whole area.

PETROLEUM ACT AND REGULATIONS

Number of retail premises licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of other premises licensed for storage including the storage of substances containing petroleum spirit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Number of tests carried out, tanks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of tests carried out, service pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Number of inspections carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22

During the year 12 infringements of good practice were found on the inspection of premises and 8 cases were found where statutory notices were absent. Cautions given to the occupiers had the desired effect.

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

Three applications for prior approval were received in connection with furnaces and four notifications of intention to install were received during the year. Apart from the domestic smoke only two chimneys in the area gave rise to complaint from a few members of the public and in one of these cases plans are being prepared for rebuilding. Burning rubbish in the open has given rise to 32 complaints which were dealt with informally. It was found that those people burning fell into two categories, the first the thoughtless who were quick to change their practice and the second the already "fell out with neighbour" type who were the most difficult to deal with.

Wokingham Borough

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

Complaints of noise were few during the year and in all cases were dealt with informally with the utmost co-operation by the people concerned. It will be some time, however, before the noise problem arising from a long standing light industrial premises situated amidst residential property is solved. Warm weather brings the opening of windows and doors at such premises and the same conditions bring people into their gardens. Time only will solve this.

SUMMARY

Summary of Inspections:—

Itinerant vendors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	102
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Knackers' yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cafes and restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	212
Public Health Inspections (nuisances)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	161
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
Housing (inspections and re-inspections)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Drainage inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Martins Swimming Pool	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Boiler houses and other furnaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Petrol stations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Public houses and places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Other visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Infectious disease and food poisoning visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
Number of disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Verminous houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Wokingham Borough

Nature of nuisances dealt with during the year:—

Defective and insufficient cesspools	...	...	...	...	8
Defective drains	...	...	...	...	38
Choked drains	...	...	...	...	32
Choked and foul W.C. pans	...	...	...	...	3
Defective flushing cisterns	...	...	...	...	2
Defective soil and ventilation pipes	...	...	...	...	15
Defective waste pipes and traps	...	...	...	...	10
Defective gutters and stackpipes	...	...	...	...	18
Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	4
Defective chimney stacks	...	...	...	...	3
Damp premises	...	...	...	...	32
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	16
Defective windows, skylights and doors	...	...	...	...	18
Defective plaster (walls and ceilings)	...	...	...	...	8
Defective or insufficient refuse receptacle	...	...	...	...	32
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	12
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	62

Wokingham Borough

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1961

INSPECTIONS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	14	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	63	28	—	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers' premises)	10	4	—	—
TOTAL	87	46	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which Defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Insp'tr (4)	By H.M. Insp'tr (5)	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage to floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	6	6	—	—	—

OUTWORKERS

There are no registered outworkers in the Borough.

JOHN B. BOWDEN.

Wokingham Rural District

STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	40,828
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book at							
31st March, 1967	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,300
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1967	...	...	...	...	...	£3,080,867	
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£12,600	
Population (estimated) mid-year	...	...	...	...	...	68,100	

LIVE BIRTHS:

				M	F	Total	
Legitimate	...	...	...	730	693	1,423	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	26	31	57	
Total	...	...	...	756	724	1,480	
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population):							
Actual	...	...	...	...	...	...	21.7
Corrected	...	...	...	...	...	...	20.4
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.9

STILL BIRTHS:

				M	F	Total	
Number of Still Births	...	...	...	9	10	19	
Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,499
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.7

INFANT DEATHS (Under 1 year):

				M	F	Total	
Legitimate	...	...	...	13	8	21	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	2	1	3	
Total	...	...	...	15	9	24	
Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 live births):							
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	52.6
Combined	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.2
Neo-natal Death Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.9
Early Neo-natal Death Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.9
Perinatal Death Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	27.4

MATERNAL DEATHS:

Number of Maternal Deaths	...	...	...	...	1
Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 live and still births)	...	...	...	...	0.7

DEATHS (All causes):

				M	F	Total	
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	268	264	532	
Death rate (per 1,000 population):							
Actual	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.8
Corrected	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.8

Wokingham Rural District
NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
 (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	1966	1965	1964
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Dysentery	181	20	2
Erysipelas	2	3	2
Food Poisoning	8	5	2
Malaria	—	—	—
Measles	366	987	406
Meningococcal Infection	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
(a) Paralytic	—	—	—
(b) Non-paralytic	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	8	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	4
Scarlet Fever	19	27	29
Smallpox	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	15	31	100

NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—
2 - 4 years	1	—	—	—
5 - 9 „	2	1	—	—
10 - 14 „	—	—	—	—
15 - 19 „	—	—	—	—
20 - 24 „	—	—	—	—
25 - 34 „	1	2	—	1
35 - 44 „	1	1	—	—
45 - 54 „	—	—	—	—
55 - 64 „	4	—	—	—
65 - 74 „	1	1	—	—
75 and over	—	—	—	—
Total (All Ages)	10	5	—	1

Wokingham Rural District

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The number of children who were immunised against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus during the year is as follows:—

DIPHTHERIA :

Primary Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Re-inforcing Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

DIPHTHERIA/TETANUS :

Primary Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Re-inforcing Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	878

DIPHTHERIA/WHOOPING COUGH/TETANUS :

Primary Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,248
Re-inforcing Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	908

The number of children and adults who were vaccinated against Smallpox and immunised against Poliomyelitis is as follows:—

SMALLPOX :

Primary Vaccinations	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,144
Re-vaccinations	...	...	...	...	...	...	262

POLIOMYELITIS :

Primary Immunisations:—

3 Oral Doses	1,217
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Re-inforcing Immunisations:—

4th Oral Doses	646
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WOKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT, 1966

29

Causes of Death	Total All Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 Year	Age in Years								75 & over
				1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	4	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	22	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	8	5	
Malignant neoplasm, breast	8	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	66	2	-	1	2	1	12	11	12	22	22	
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	
Diabetes	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	
Vascular lesions of nervous system	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	4	45	
Coronary disease, angina	92	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	9	41	
Hypertension with heart disease	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	
Other heart disease	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	5	34	
Other circulatory disease	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	8	
Influenza	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Pneumonia	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	21	
Bronchitis	23	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	10	
Other diseases of respiratory system	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Congenital malformations	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	58	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	5	23	
Motor vehicle accidents	12	19	-	3	1	1	3	1	2	-	2	
All other accidents	15	1	-	1	-	1	1	2	1	1	5	
Suicide	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	
Total All Causes	532	22	2	6	5	5	5	16	40	61	133	236

Wokingham Rural District

REPORT OF CHIEF ENGINEER

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The new sewage disposal works at Arborfield was brought into operation on the 29th April with the connection of the Arborfield Garrison sewers.

Sewers laid in Stages I and II of the sewerage scheme for the Parishes of Barkham, Finchampstead and Wokingham Without were ready for use in July and December respectively. In stage II four additional pumping stations, installed with submersible pumps, have been brought into operation.

Although the Swallowfield sewerage scheme was completed in October, the Drainage and Scavenging Committee decided not to permit drainage connections until the completion of the pumping station reconstruction at Parrot Farm. This latter scheme involves the installation of larger pumps and the laying of a new rising main, approximately 2 miles in length, to the Marsh Farm Sewage Disposal Works. Excellent progress was made in the early stages of the contract. The wet weather of October and November caused some delay, but it is hoped that work on this scheme will be completed early in the new year.

The detailed design for the Wargrave Sewage Works extension is well under way, and it is expected that tenders will be invited by June, 1967. The extension incorporates a unique inlet and screening chamber, primary and secondary treatment units, and sludge pressing plant. The Council have already accepted provisional quotations for mechanical equipment and plant.

Small extensions to the sewers at Blakes Lane, Wargrave and Eversley Road, Arborfield, have been undertaken. Preliminary investigations for a sewerage scheme for Hurst and modifications to the rising main from the pumping station at Arbor Lane have been carried out.

With the present shortage of labour on drainage work, the extension of the sewerage services and the additional sewage from an increasing population, the Council have accepted the need to undertake further extensions at Marsh Farm Sewage Disposal Works and to mechanise the sludge treatment process at all major works where possible.

Arborfield Sewage Disposal Works will be the first to be mechanised, with the installation of a mechanical sludge lifter in March or April, 1967. Sludge pressing plant for Wargrave and Marsh Farm is scheduled for 1968.

As a stop gap a new 1,000 gallon sludge tanker has been ordered so as to assist in sludge disposal, and this will be used in conjunction

Wokingham Rural District

with the "Manurain" tanker for spraying liquid sludge on fields. Later these two tankers will be used for removing sludge from the smaller works to the sludge processing plant.

A radio/telephone communication system has been installed during the year. Alarm transmitter units have been established at eight pumping stations with a monitor set at the duty officer's residence, to give a 24 hour call service. Radio telephones have been mounted in five vehicles and a two way communication is possible to these vans operating within the district. Additional warning units are to be installed during 1967.

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE

Relenting on their previous decision the Ministry authorised the Council to invite tenders for the Nash Grove Lane, Barkham, Surface water sewer. Work which was started in June last is now virtually complete. The scheme involves the laying of 1700 lin. yds. of 48 ins., 39 ins., and 24 ins., diameter pipe, and concrete channel at a cost of £59,500. The pipework has been designed for the future development of the catchment area.

Whilst carrying out road works in Tippings Lane, Woodley, the Berkshire County Council laid 470 lin. yds. of 30 ins. diameter pipe-work for the Rural District Council.

A small extension scheme to Colemansmoor Road, Woodley, has also been completed. This involved the laying of twin 36 ins. diameter culverts.

W. BENNETT.

Wokingham Rural District

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S SURVEYOR

The number of deposited plans submitted for Town Planning and Building Regulations consideration for the year 1966 is as follows:—

Outline applications for housing development	...	...	...	324
Detailed plans for housing development	...	...	...	170
Detailed plans for alterations and additions to existing dwellings, for conversions, business premises, large garages and new accesses, etc.	...	...	...	389
Advertisement signs	...	...	...	19
Industrial Buildings	...	...	...	13
Local Authority development	...	...	...	9
Schools	...	...	...	27
Working of minerals	...	...	...	2
Development by Statutory Undertakings	...	...	...	6
Electricity line extensions	...	...	...	27
Plans requiring approval under Building Regulations only:—				
Small additions or alterations to existing dwellings, drainage systems, small domestic garages, farm buildings	...	...	...	708
				<hr/> 1,694 <hr/>

(1965 Total: 1,452)

The number of private houses completed in 1966 and under construction on the 31st December, 1966, is as follows:—

Parish	Completed	Under Construction
Arborfield	12	—
Barkham	2	4
Earley	50	26
Finchampstead	15	8
Hurst	4	1
Remenham	—	—
Ruscombe	—	—
Shinfield	16	7
Sonning	3	—
Swallowfield	9	5
Twyford	98	17
Wargrave	71	44
Winnersh	49	3
Wokingham Without	70	47
Woodley	171	78
	<hr/> 570 <hr/>	<hr/> 240 <hr/>
1965 Totals	980	339

G. R. TWEEN.

Wokingham Rural District

REPORT OF THE HOUSING MANAGER

During the year the number of properties owned by the Council has been brought up to 1,882 by the completion of the development at Little Glebe, Sonning.

Work has also commenced on two schemes. The first is a three storey centrally heated building at Woodley, the ground and first floor comprising 46 units for old people, with Warden accommodation, Common Room, etc., and the third comprising eight one-bedroomed general purpose flats. This development is expected to be ready for occupation by Autumn of next year. The other is a small development of 17 units at Arborfield, comprising ten two-bedroomed houses and seven bungalows for old people, and should be ready for occupation towards the middle of next year. Approval has been given for the erection of 221 units at King Street Lane, Winnersh, and contractors should have access to the site approximately February of next year and it is anticipated that the first houses from this development will be handed over towards the end of the year.

An analysis of the houses owned by the Rural District Council of Wokingham as at 1st December, 1966 is as follows:—

		Pre-1939	Built 1944	Com- pleted Post-War	Under construc- tion	Approved	Total
Arborfield	...	38	2	42	17	—	99
Barkham	...	8	—	14	—	—	22
Earley	...	4	—	47	—	—	51
Finchampstead	...	25	—	42	—	—	67
Hurst	...	22	—	26	—	—	48
Remenham	...	—	—	8	—	—	8
Ruscombe	...	31	—	77	—	—	108
Shinfield	...	56	—	352	—	—	408
Sonning	...	34	—	48	—	—	82
Swallowfield	...	39	2	25	—	—	66
Twyford	...	28	—	132	—	—	160
Wargrave	...	46	—	115	—	—	161
Winnersh	...	18	—	41	—	221	280
Wokingham	Without	15	2	73	—	—	90
Woodley	...	25	2	443	56	—	526
		<hr/> 389	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 1,485	<hr/> 73	<hr/> 221	<hr/> 2,176

There have been 203 tenancy changes during the year comprising 93 lettings to applicants from the waiting list and 110 transfers and exchanges to make better use of available accommodation. In effecting these transfers and exchanges it has not been necessary on any single occasion to resort to the compulsory powers which the Council have.

Wokingham Rural District

As a result of the annual review of the housing waiting list carried out early in the year, a considerable amount of "dead wood" was removed and an analysis of the figures is shown below:—

					1965	1966
Arborfield	...	...	...	...	51	39
Barkham	...	...	...	...	15	11
Earley	...	...	...	...	66	30
Finchampstead	...	...	...	...	26	13
Hurst	...	...	...	...	26	17
Remenham	...	...	...	...	10	5
Ruscombe	...	...	...	...	14	9
Shinfield	...	...	...	...	141	76
Sonning	...	...	...	...	25	17
Swallowfield	...	...	...	...	36	24
Twyford	...	...	...	...	69	62
Wargrave	...	...	...	...	53	31
Winnersh	...	...	...	...	59	50
Wokingham Without	...	...	...	...	79	70
Woodley	...	...	...	...	105	53
					<hr/> 775	<hr/> 507

With the employment for a short period at the beginning of the year of a part-time Clerical Assistant I was able to commence to set up an adequate basis of records and information vital to the efficient running of a Housing Department and with the appointment of an experienced Housing Assistant in June, 1966, I was able to start a system of periodic inspection of all properties owned by the Council and a survey of occupants, so that the full extent of under- and over-occupation can be determined, the standard of tenancy noted, and the structural condition of the property inspected so that consideration can be given to the introduction of a system of planned maintenance. I have carried out a survey of garages, garage needs and car parking problems in general and plans have been formulated with a view to the provision of more garages and car parking facilities to deal with the ever increasing problem of the motor car owner.

W. BULLOUGH.

Wokingham Rural District

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WET SCAVENGING

(a) COLLECTION

As in the previous year, the fleet of vehicles has been maintained at six with a seventh in reserve. The following is the statistical information regarding work carried out with the vehicles compared with the previous year:—

		1965	1966
No. of vehicle hours worked	...	10,862	10,995
No. of miles travelled	... ..	99,301	90,912
No. of gallons of fuel used	... ..	9,359	9,090
No. of cesspools emptied	... ..	11,596	11,673
Length of hose used (ft.)	... ..	1,116,946	1,147,320
Sewage disposed of (gals.)	... ..	15,935,500	16,381,235

Dealing primarily with these figures it is interesting to note that there has been a reduction of over 8,000 miles in the total mileage travelled. This is mainly due to the use of the Arborfield Sewage Works as a disposal point for cesspool contents. The total amount of sewage disposed of, at almost sixteen and a half million gallons, is the highest figure recorded for many years. This has resulted from the fact that the Arborfield Main Drainage Scheme was not available for use until mid-year and the second stage of that scheme did not, in fact, become available during the year under review. This, together with the incipient build-up of development throughout the district in unsewered areas, has led to a final work load higher than ever before over the past six years. Towards the end of the year there was a gradual reduction in demand and it is hoped that next year, with the availability of the second stage of the Barkham/Finchampstead/Wokingham Without Main Drainage Scheme and schemes in Swallowfield and Arborfield, a further reduction will be achieved.

At the present time the scheme for cesspool emptying allows the householder to obtain the service at not more frequent intervals than once in every eight weeks. Improvements in this service have been given in certain areas in the parishes of Wargrave and Arborfield. In addition, two areas in Wokingham Without now covered by main drainage were similarly treated, together with an area in Finchampstead not served by the Barkham/Finchampstead/Wokingham Without Main Drainage Scheme. It is hoped that as time goes on, with more main drainage available, the Committee will authorise the houses still not served with main drainage to be given a four-weekly service on application. In addition to this rate-aided service, householders can obtain additional service on prepayment at the rate of 25/0d. per thousand gallons removed.

Wokingham Rural District

(b) DISPOSAL

The following table shows the amount of cesspool sewage, in gallons, disposed of at the various sites, compared with the previous year:—

Site					1965	1966
Gipsy Lane	...	...	...	...	1,952,830	953,325
Colemans Moor	...	...	...	...	3,533,200	3,024,175
Winnersh Farm	...	...	...	...	2,953,220	865,450
Other sites	...	...	...	...	877,750	448,750
Into manholes at:—						
Wargrave Sewers	...	...	...	...	1,601,950	2,127,710
Winnersh Sewers	...	...	...	...	2,352,850	1,503,525
Shinfield Sewers	...	...	...	...	2,663,700	2,104,425
Arborfield Works	...	...	...	...	—	5,350,875
					15,935,500	16,378,235

It will be noted that more and more cesspool sewage has been put into the sewers for treatment at the sewage works. This is undoubtedly an advantage, particularly from the disposal point of view. It will be noted that less sewage has been tipped at Winnersh Farm. This site has been cleaned of sludge and is held for use in case of emergencies. It is a difficult site to manage, but served an extremely useful purpose when the use of the Wokingham Borough sewers was denied this Council. Comment must be made on the fact that over three million gallons have again been disposed of at Colemans Moor. This is a site which operates with little difficulty, but there is no doubt that the area in close proximity will soon be used for residential development and the use of this site for cesspool emptying purposes will then have to cease.

CONNECTIONS TO MAIN DRAINAGE

No. of Notices delivered in connection with Stage I of the Barkham/Finchampstead/Wokingham Without Main Drainage Scheme:

Barkham Parish	...	...	...	...	276
Finchampstead Parish	...	...	...	...	197
Wokingham Without Parish	...	...	...	...	237

No. of Notices delivered in connection with Stage II of the above Scheme:

Wokingham Without Parish	94
--------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

No. of properties connected to the public sewer:

Barkham Parish	...	...	...	...	192
Finchampstead Parish	...	...	...	...	133
Wokingham Without Parish	...	...	...	...	183

Wokingham Rural District

In other parishes:

Earley	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shinfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Sonning	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Swallowfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Winnersh	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Woodley	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

As will be seen from the above statistics, 804 notices that the sewer has become available to householders have been delivered. This is excellent progress in an amenity which is very much required in the Rural District. It is a great pity, however, that the availability of the sewers has been delayed by the slow progress of the contractors. The work of fixing the lateral points and supervision of the connections has taken up a considerable amount of the Inspectors' time.

DRY SCAVENGING

(a) COLLECTION

During the course of the year, one 35 cub. yd. continuous loading refuse collection vehicle was delivered, and replaced a Fore and Aft Collector. The fleet has been maintained at nine in continuous operation as far as private households are concerned, with one spare vehicle and one vehicle also acting as a spare but primarily concerned with special collections of refuse and accumulations of litter in the district, etc., The following is a summary of the work done by the collection fleet:—

Collection Vehicles				1966	1965
Total Working Time (hours)	...	...	...	22,351	22,227
Miles travelled	...	...	...	100,238	96,246
Fuel used (gals.)	...	...	...	12,011	10,632
Oil used (pts.)	...	...	...	3,603	2,748
Total refuse collected (c. yds.)	...	...	...	166,594	153,083
M.P.G.	...	...	...	8.47	9.02
Refuse dealt with per gal. fuel used					
(c. yds.)	...	...	...	15.41	15.82

The service itself is primarily one of a semi-backdoor type, where the dustbins are fetched out from the rear of the premises, emptied, and left at or near the front gate. There are only two kerbside routes in operation in the more rural parts of the district. The district continues to grow and it is this factor which makes the maintenance of a regular collection schedule most difficult. The use of a bonus scheme for operators is of considerable help, particularly as the number of properties increases.

All the refuse collected, as shown above, together with a large quantity of trade refuse brought to the site by private contractors, has been disposed of at the Council's tip at the Old Gravel Pits, Tippings Lane, Woodley. The plant used on the site comprises of one Bulldozer and one Drott Shovel, together with the part-time use of a Tractor Mounted Shovel and Backacter. Two tipping lorries are also available.

One trouble which was not anticipated occurred in the disposal of trade waste. For many years the semi-liquid trade effluent from a potato crisp manufacturer had been disposed of by tipping same in a depression made on the tip and then covering with refuse and soil. Chicken manure had been dealt with similarly. Due to ground conditions mentioned above it was not possible to carry out the normal disposal processes for this when tipping upon the water-logged silt. Consequently the lagoon used for this starchy effluent was also used for chicken manure and became overfull. When the temperature exceeded 70°F. a serious nuisance from smell occurred. This was finally eliminated by surrounding and covering with soil — a process taking several thousand cubic yards of soil. The difficulties have now been overcome and the tipping arrangements are entirely satisfactory.

INSPECTIONS

Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Milk Delivery Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Bakers' and Confectioners' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Canteens and Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Confectioners' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Grocers' and General Provisions Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	312
Hotels and Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Stalls and Other Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Fruiterers' and Greengrocers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120

Wokingham Rural District

Again I have to report an increase in the number of complaints received regarding unwholesome food, and a detailed statement is given below on the action taken on the more important cases which were referred to the Public Health Committee:—

1. Piece of wire found in a steak pie.
Warning letter to suppliers.
2. Foreign bodies in packet of frozen peas.
Warning letter to suppliers.
3. Mouldy Cornish Pasty.
Warning letter to suppliers.
4. Dirty milk bottle.
Court proceedings—Fines totalling £30.
5. Dark stains in loaf of bread.
Warning letter to suppliers.

The results of two cases referred to as pending in my report for 1965 are given below:—

1. Mouldy potato crisps.
Court proceedings—Fines totalling £21.
2. Mould growth in pre-packed cake.
Court proceedings—Fined £2.

The general standard of hygiene in food establishments in the Rural District has been well maintained, and co-operation with the manufacturers and retailers has shown good results.

UN SOUND FOOD

40 lbs. English Beef	6 lbs. Sausages
109 lbs. English Pork	30 lbs. Rabbits
28 lbs Ox Kidney	7 lbs. Golden Fillets
28 lbs. Sheep Livers	53 lbs. Corned Beef (in tins)
25 lbs. Lamb Livers	90 lbs. Cooked Pork (in tins)
48 lbs. Frozen Escampi	11½ lbs. Ham
23 lbs. Butter	219 cartons Ice Cream
9 lbs. Margarine	1,865 packets Frozen Foods
14 lbs. Bacon	139 lbs. Meat (various)
17 lbs. Cheese	345 tins various foodstuffs

Wokingham Rural District

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957

The number of persons holding licences under the above Act and Order has risen from 15 to 18.

No major infringements of the Order were discovered and plant and premises have been reasonably maintained.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

Fourteen licences were issued under the above Act. In one case it was necessary to issue a Notice of Refusal following an inspection by the Council Veterinary Surgeon. The premises were not considered suitable for the boarding of cats and dogs.

Apart from this case the general standard of the establishments was good.

HOUSING

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

The following shows the action taken during the year under the above programme:—

(1)	Number of properties represented as unfit for human habitation during the year	...	...	...	...	20
(2)	Number of houses demolished not in Clearance Areas as a result of formal procedure under Sections 16 or 17 (1) Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...	8
	Number of persons displaced	...	...	...	...	9
	Number of families	...	...	...	...	4
(3)	Number of unfit houses closed under Section 16 (4), 17 (1), and 35 (1) Housing Act 1957, and Section 26, Housing Act 1961	...	...	...	...	7
	Number of persons displaced	...	...	...	...	14
	Number of families	...	...	...	...	6
(4)	Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied:					
	After informal notice by Local Authority	...	...			9
	After formal notice under Section 24, Housing Act 1957					1

HOUSING ACT 1964 (PART II)

Compulsory improvement of dwellings:

Number of representations received	Nil
------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Wokingham Rural District

HOUSING ACT 1957

Slum Clearance return :

Total number of permanent dwellings in area	...	...	19,702
Estimated total number of permanent houses unfit for human habitation	...	...	98

HOUSING INSPECTIONS

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for defects :

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	37

WATER SAMPLING

No. of mains water samples taken	...	...	...	...	2
Well water samples	...	...	...	...	7
Swimming Pool water	...	...	...	...	10
Visits re. water supply	...	...	...	...	26

The results obtained from swimming pools in various parts of the district showed 5 satisfactory and 3 unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples were due to a breakdown in the chlorination plants and repeat samples after repairs gave satisfactory results.

The results of the mains water samples were satisfactory, but four unsatisfactory results were obtained from well water. One was overcome by connecting the property to the main supply and the other three by chlorination measures.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

The situation regarding caravans is substantially the same as reported last year. The Sub-Committee which was appointed to consider the question of caravans generally did not, in fact, meet.

One prosecution under Section 1 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act was taken, resulting in a fine of £20. A second case against the same person, six months later, resulted in a fine of £5.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

As in the previous year, only informal action was taken under the above Act, but no serious noise problem was reported to the Department for action.

Wokingham Rural District

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

No formal action was taken under the above Act, apart from Notices received under Section 3 (1) regarding installations of furnaces to which that Section applies.

Complaints regarding bonfires were frequent, especially from the more built-up parishes, but in no case was action under Section 16 contemplated.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

SECTION 50

Two burials were undertaken during the year under the above Act, one being of an unidentified newly born male child and the other of an old lady with no known next of kin.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

**ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY
WORKPLACE.**

Class of Workplace					No. of Persons Employed
Offices	...	...	...	...	908
Retail Shops	...	...	...	...	525
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	...	...	...	...	14
Catering Establishments open to the Public	...	...	...	...	101
Canteens	...	...	...	...	—
Fuel Storage Depots	...	...	...	...	7
					1555
Males	...	...	...	...	713
Females	...	...	...	...	842

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Totals			No. of premises registered during year	Total no. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during year
Offices	...	...	6	53	4
Retail Shops	...	...	2	20	36
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	...	...	—	3	1
Catering Establishments open to the Public, Canteens	...	...	—	12	2
Fuel Storage Depots	...	...	—	2	1

Wokingham Rural District

PEST CONTROL

No. of complaints received:—

Rat infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	780
Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Other pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	272

No. of properties found infested with:

Rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,057
Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	138
Other pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	233

No. of treatments carried over from previous year ... 65

No. of properties treated for:

Rat infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,524
Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	118
Other pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	159

No. of infested properties where advice has been given ... 86

No. of inspections for all purposes ... 3,959

No. of re-inspections carried out ... 1,437

No. of new contracts taken up ... 16 Value £162

No. of existing contracts renewed ... 73 Value £906

No. of contracts lost ... 10 Value £91

The figures for rat infestation show a considerable increase over the previous year. This, I understand, is a situation in which our neighbours find themselves, but it is important to note that there are no large infestations and there appears to be no immunity to Warfarin in this area.

Wokingham Rural District

SUMMARY OF OTHER INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Inspections under the Public Health Acts	...	...	491
Re-inspections	...	...	684
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	211
Drainage	...	...	2,525
Verminous Houses	...	...	7
Disinfestations	...	...	9
Schools	...	...	33
Licensed Houses	...	...	21
Nursing Homes	...	...	4
Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	320
Hairdressers and Barbers	...	...	18
Pig Sties and Poultry Runs	...	...	43
Swimming Pools	...	...	18
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	72
Nature of complaints received in connection with:			
Unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation in factories	...	...	5
Noise	...	...	11
Defective and overflowing cesspools	...	...	53
Smoke nuisance	...	...	15
Housing defects	...	...	46
Flooding—surface water	...	...	46
Defective drainage systems and fitments	...	...	22
Unsound food	...	...	41
Pollution of ditches and streams	...	...	17
Dumping of refuse and accumulations	...	...	29
Animals improperly kept	...	...	4
Unauthorised caravans	...	...	33
Unsatisfactory water supply	...	...	6
Heating and lighting in shops	...	...	2
Air pollution—fumes, etc.	...	...	27
Defective dustbins	...	...	2
Dirty food vehicle	...	...	1
Overgrown gardens	...	...	2
Barking of dogs	...	...	3
Infestations—flies, bugs, etc.	...	...	19

Wokingham Rural District

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1961

INSPECTIONS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	108	96	—	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	111	98	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which Defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Insp'tr	By H.M. Insp'tr	
Sanitary Conveniences : Unsuitable or Defective	5	5	—	1	—
TOTAL	5	5	—	1	—

Wokingham Rural District
PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of Out-Workers in Aug. List required by Section 133(1) (c)	No. of Cases of Default in sending Lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for Failure to supply Lists	No. of Instances of work in Unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel : Making, etc.	9	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture and Upholstery	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	9	—	—	—	—	—

D. EVANS

